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SUBJECT: SURINAME: 2009 Country Reports on Terrorism

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11. (SBU) Post is pleased to submit the 2009 Country Report on Terrorism for Suriname.

Suriname

The likelihood of Suriname being used by terrorists as a base for their operations or as a safe haven remains unchanged from 2008. Suriname's lead agency for counterterrorism is the Central Intelligence and Security Agency (CIVD). The Ministry of Justice and Police (MOJP) has a police Anti-Terrorist Unit (ATU) and a 50-person "Arrest Team" (A-Team). At the end of 2007, the Council of Ministers approved a new draft counterterrorism law that defined terrorism as a crime, and provided a framework for more effectively combating terrorism and the financing of terrorism. This draft legislation was approved by the State Council and the President in 2008, and has been presented to the National Assembly for discussion. When this legislation is passed, it should bring Surinamese law in line with various international treaties dealing with terrorism and could help pave the way for Surinamese membership in the Egmont Group. A draft criminal procedure law was approved by the Council of Ministers in February 2008. This law will provide the implementing legislation for the new counterterrorism law, as well as special investigative tools to assist law enforcement authorities in detecting and investigating terrorist activities.

Suriname began issuing Caribbean Community (CARICOM)-compliant machine-readable passports in 2004 and the old passports are no longer in circulation. The United States provided watch lists of known terrorists to Surinamese police, but if any terrorists were present, the likelihood of apprehending them would be low because of the lack of border and immigration control by police and other Surinamese government officials, and because Suriname has no digitized system for registering and monitoring visitors. According to police sources, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) has conducted arms-for-drugs operations with criminal organizations in Suriname. The Government of Suriname deported several FARC members to Colombia in 2008.

12. (U) Post point of contact is Geneve Menscher, Political-Economic Section Chief; menscherge@state.gov; IVG 540-2205 or (597) 472-900 ext. 2205.  
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